each district of the country. At present, 545 JNVs are functioning throughout the country. Amounts of Rs. 710.00 crore under Plan and Rs. 173.40 crore under Non-Plan have been allocated for the Navodaya Vidyalayas during 2007-08. Vidyalayas are opened in the districts not having such Vidyalayas provided the concerned State/UT Governments make available 30 acres of land free of cost for locating the school and also subject to the State Government making available suitable temporary accommodation for running the school till the permanent building is constructed.

Improving the education programmes at IITs

2152. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have noted the description of IITs as factories, churning out high quality engineers;

(b) whether it is a fact that students refuse to pursue masters and doctoral programmes;

(c) if so, to what extent IITs have failed to create more doctoral students and research oriented education at IITs;

(d) the steps proposed to improve the masters and doctoral programmes at IITs; and

(e) the other steps proposed by Government to create motivation and incentives, to encourage research and doctoral studies at these centres of excellence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) are imparting high quality/engineering and scientific education and producing world class engineers and scientists with all round development of personality, enabling them to become excellent engineers, researchers, software professionals, managers, etc. The Masters and Doctoral Programmes of these Institutes have always been in demand.

(d) and (e) Numerous steps are being taken to motivate engineering graduates to pursue post-graduate and research programmes in IITs which include introduction of 5-year Dual Degree programmes (B.Tech and M.Tech), 5-year Integrated M.Tech and M.Sc courses, awarding assistantship to M.Tech./Doctoral students, direct enrolment of good B.Tech. students to Ph.D. programmes, introduction of high value fellowships/scholarships, etc.

Establishment of world class universities

2153. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission has recommended to establish 14 world class universities in the country;

(b) if so, the details and the current status thereof;